

EXHIBIT 5DATE 1/25/07HB Public Comment / ED

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Joint Education Subcommittee

1/23/07

Testimony

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Gordon Sanders, Resource Manager for Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., a small family-owned Forest Products mill in the rural community of Seeley Lake, Montana. On behalf of our 155 hard-working Montana families at Pyramid, I offer the following testimony in support of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station's proposed budget.

As a member of the College of Forestry and Conservation Advisory Board and as a Certified Professional Forester working with the Director, Associate Director and various faculty, I am very supportive of their programs, the academic experience they deliver to students, and the outreach, demonstration projects and exposure of research results to the public and practitioners. The Experimental Lubrecht Forest and Experimental Bandy Ranch have been utilized very effectively to demonstrate state of the art forest and range management techniques to students, the public, and policy makers.

Over the last couple of years, the College's increased emphasis on Applied Forest Management filled a previous void in students academic learning experience. To those of us outside the University System, we view Applied Forest Management, Applied

Research and increasing student activities in the field as a very unique and positive direction as compared to other Forestry Schools across the country focusing more on philosophical and virtual reality. There is nothing like hands on education.

In closing, I am very supportive of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, the valuable, cutting edge research they produce and the partners they have worked hard at developing. Thank you for all your previous support for the Experiment Station and I encourage you to fully support their budget as presented.

Sincerely,



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